



Maryland's Manure Transport Program helps farmers protect water quality by provid-

ing funds to transport nutrient-rich manure off farms with high soil phosphorus levels to other farms or businesses that can use the manure safely as a nutrient source. The program provides cost-share assistance of up to \$20 per ton to help pay for costs associated with moving manure away from poultry, dairy, swine, beef or other animal operations. Established by the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998, participation in the Program has grown steadily over the years, with upwards of 35,000 tons of manure being transported annually. Because of the sheer volume of manure being transported, it is important that certain safeguards and precautions be taken to prevent the spread of disease and germs.

What Is Biosecurity?

Many common diseases are produced by microbes that are invisible unless viewed under a microscope. In less than a day, a single microbe can reproduce and multiply millions of times. Microbes can be deadly, persistent killers that readily survive in dust particles, droppings, and manure. Microbes travel from place to place on chicken crates, cattle trailers, farm equipment, people and trucks. They can be found on people's hands, hair, clothing and shoes. Rodents, birds, flies, beetles and other insects are also notorious spreaders of disease-causing organisms.

Keeping disease-causing organisms in check is the key to protecting Maryland's poultry and livestock industries. Effective prevention measures reduce the occurrences of diseases such as avian influenza, Newcastle Disease, laryngotracheitis, and duck plague on poultry farms and highly publicized diseases such as Mad Cow and Foot and Mouth in hoofed animals. These diseases can cause poultry and livestock epidemics, public alarm, and long, expensive quarantines, resulting in severe financial losses. It is possible to keep Maryland's poultry and livestock industries free of disease by using defensive measures known as "biosecurity."

Required Biosecurity Measures For Maryland's Manure Transport Program

Poultry Operations

To help ensure the health and safety of Maryland's poultry industry, the Manure Transport Program requires poultry farmers and transporters to implement the following biosecurity measures:

- Cover all loads during transportation when traveling on public roads.
- Cover all truck-mounted or tractor-drawn spreaders when moving poultry litter between farms, unless the farms are contiguous.
- Clean, wash, and disinfect all transporting and handling equipment prior to operating at a different poultry operation.

- Do not transport or offer for transport poultry litter containing dead birds that are not completely composted.

- Haulers and drivers should thoroughly clean and disinfect boots when arriving and leaving farms. Disposable boots may also be used and these should be removed when leaving a farm or placed in a garbage bag for disposal. Outerwear such as coveralls should also be changed between farm visits.

Livestock Operations

The following biosecurity measures are required for non-poultry operations:

- Before loading manure, the transporter must make certain the cargo area is clean and free of foreign material.
- Prior to entering another manure-producing farm, the transporter must disinfect equipment where manure collects.
- All loads must be secured so that manure will not spill, blow, drop or leak from transportation or application equipment.
- After unloading, the cargo area of the transport area must be thoroughly cleaned to prevent contamination.
- Transport equipment may not be driven over land where manure has been applied.
- Haulers and drivers should thoroughly clean and disinfect boots when arriving and leaving farms. Disposable boots may also be used and these should be removed when leaving a farm or placed in a garbage bag for disposal. Outerwear such as coveralls should also be changed between farm visits.

Additional Prevention Measures

Should an outbreak of a contagious or infectious poultry or livestock disease take place, the Maryland Department of Agriculture may issue any necessary order to prevent the spread of diseases, including the prohibition of transporting manure in the state.

An applicant applying for cost-share through Maryland's Manure Transport Program may be required to implement additional biosecurity measures as a condition of approval. Poultry producers are strongly encouraged to discuss biosecurity with their company representatives and the University of Maryland to determine—on a case-by-case basis—whether additional measures are needed to protect individual poultry flocks and the industry at large.

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For More Information:

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**SAFETY MEASURES
DESIGNED TO KEEP
MARYLAND'S POULTRY
AND LIVESTOCK
INDUSTRIES HEALTHY**

